

The Quinte Loyalist Muster

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH UEL ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 23 NUMBER 3 CHRISTMAS 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT/EDITOR:

On behalf of the executive of the Bay of Quinte Branch UEL, I would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thanks for your support of our activities in 2011! As the year 2012 comes up, we will be busy with events to celebrate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. We will keep you posted on local ones. Many of the sons of our Loyalist ancestors took part in the War of 1812, either in active battle or as members of local defence militia groups. My ancestor James McMasters Jr., served as a Private in the Lenox Militia in 1813-1814. I am sure many of you also had veterans of the War of 1812 in your family tree.

**NOTICE FOR UPCOMING MEETING
for BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH UEL
3rd REGULAR MEETING will be held on
SATURDAY, JANUARY 14th, 2012 at 12:00PM
at ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH
Corner of Bridge & Robinson St., Napanee, Ont.
POTLUCK LUNCHEON AT NOON MEETING TO FOLLOW
PLEASE BRING ALONG PLATES AND CUTLERY
TOPIC: STORIES ON FAMILY ARTEFACTS**

DUES DUES DUES!

A reminder again for BRANCH DUES for 2012. **The 2012 dues are \$55 for individual, \$70 for family, and \$15 for multibranch members.** Please make sure that your dues are received by the end of January to ensure receiving both our Branch newsletters & Dominion Publications. Make cheques payable to Bay of Quinte Branch UEL and send along with the enclosed form to: JANET EGGLETON, Membership Secretary
Box 647, Stirling, ONT., K0K 3E0

UPCOMING DATES FOR BAY OF QUINTE BRANCH:

Sat. March 10th, 2012 at 1:30PM at the Frankford Masonic Hall, Frankford, 4th Regular Branch Meeting, Speaker to be announced

Sat. April 21st, 2012 at 10:30AM at the Adolphustown Township Hall, Adolphustown, UEL Genealogy Workshop and Research Day. Presenters will include Linda Corupe, Peter Johnson and Brian Tackaberry. Bring your research questions. More to follow next edition.

Sat. May 12th, 2012 at 1:30PM at the Adolphustown Township Hall, Adolphustown, Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers, Speaker: David Smith Topic: Recognition of 1812 Veterans' Graves along the Loyalist Parkway

NEW BOOK: The Loyalist Tiles of St. Alban's, Encaustic Memorial Tiles of the 19th Century.

Berlet, Diane (author), Coles, Graem (photographer)

Kingston: Allan Graphics Ltd. 2011.

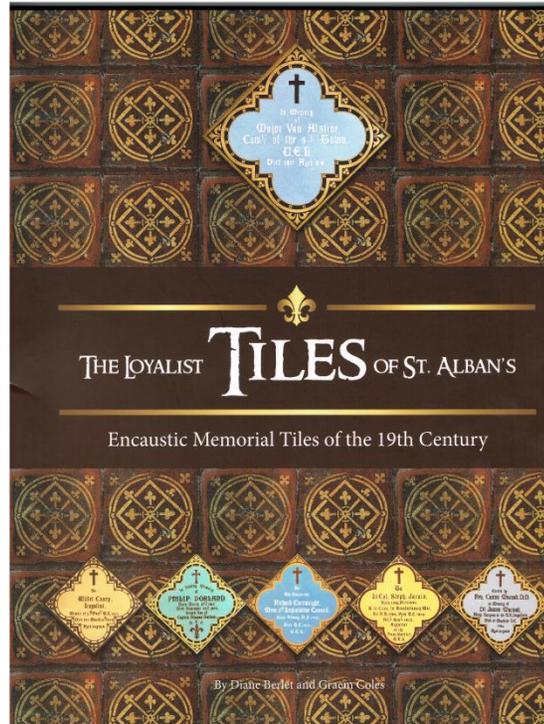
Reviewed by Peter W. Johnson UE

To say that Diane Berlet and the History Committee of St. Alban's Church in Adolphustown have produced a handsome publication would be an understatement. It is not only a pleasure to see it, but it is also packed with information. The book was launched before a full house on October 29th and Bay of Quinte Branch was represented by June Dafoe UE, Merle Burns UE, Norman Hawley UE and myself. As well student employee Caron Murphy was in attendance and Diane mentioned his considerable help when she was exploring records at our Research Centre.

St. Alban's dates from 1884 and it was planned to coincide with the Centennial of the Loyalists' arrival in the Quinte area. Canon Forneri was responsible for the push to realize this project and the neo-Gothic structure was designed by Joseph Power and Son. St. Alban's particular claim to fame is the set of sixty-four encaustic memorial tiles which were paid for by descendants and friends in the 1880s. Brian Musselwhite of the ROM, (whom I knew in high school and university in Toronto), remarks in the Foreword that this grouping, *was probably the largest installation of such tiles in Canada.* (p5).

It is best to understand the scope of this collection before you actually view it. There is a general assumption that the tiles all represent Quinte area Loyalists. In fact while there are a number of such Loyalists represented, there are also other early area non-Loyalists, Loyalists from other jurisdictions and quite a few who were born in later times. Of course the information on the tiles was provided by descendants over a century ago, and there are some errors. For example Capt. Abraham Maybee UE is listed as 96 years of age at his death, which is a few years off, and William Crawford is shown to have been in the *Royal Rangers*, when the King's Royal Reg't of NY would be the regiment.

Each of the sixty-four tiles is featured in a full page photograph and Diane has provided extensive notes to add more information about the individuals and in some cases to correct information on the tiles. There's also detailed information on the source of the tiles in England and the specialized process used in their creation. A number of UELAC members are mentioned in the Acknowledgements including Fred Hayward UE, Brian Tackaberry UE, Doug Grant UE, George Anderson UE, Philip Smart UE and myself to name a few. I am also happy to report that there will be a copy of this book in our Research Centre. If you are interested in a copy of the book, contact Diane at dianeberlet4@aol.com or graem.coles@reztel.net. Cost of the book is \$50.00 plus shipping and handling fees.



LOYALIST HALL OF HONOUR: WILLIAM ALLAN DEMPSEY

(Written By June Dafoe UE)

William Allan Dempsey was born August 17, 1906 and died March 13, 1993. To Allan and his first wife, **Muriel Bentham**, two daughters, **Ruth and Elizabeth**, were born, and from his second marriage to **Dr. Ethel Noble**, two sons, **Albert and Lawrence** completed his family of four. The Dempsey lineage is interesting, as Allan was a fifth generation from the second permanent settler in Ameliasburgh Township, and was born on the family homestead on Lot 67 Concession 1. He has co-lineal descent to US presidents **John Adams** and **John Quincy Adams**. He is descendant of the following loyalists: **Thomas Dempsey UE, Jacobus Peck Jr. UE, Godlove Mikel UE, and John Lott Sr. UE**. These names appear through his great-grandparents, **Major William Dempsey** who married **Sarah Ann Mikel**, and **George Boulter** who married **Sarah Peck**. Allan's grandparents were **Emily Boulter**, who became the wife of **Captain William Ryerson Dempsey**. An impressive lineage, which combined Irish and British ancestry.

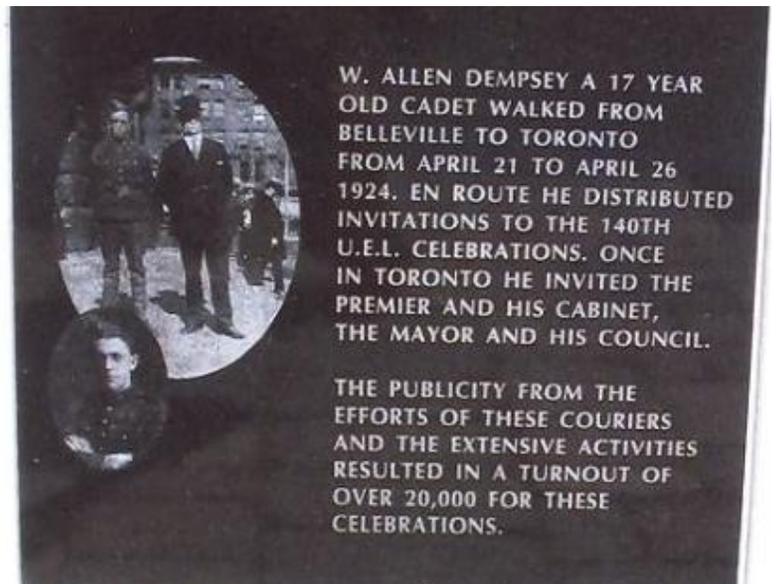


Cadet Allan Dempsey was one of the key players in the successful celebration for the United Empire Loyalists held in Belleville in 1924, where the UEL monument was to be unveiled in June of that year. The occasion was the 140th Anniversary of the settlement of the Loyalists in Upper Canada. June 16th 1924 was determined to be the date when a week of celebrations would commence. There was a concern by the organizers how they would spread the news of this important event with limited resources, since most newspapers published only weekly. Some of you will know that they succeeded in bringing hundreds of visitors to the Belleville area making the Loyalist Celebration an outstanding success. Allan Dempsey contributed as a 17 year old cadet, acting in the roll of courier travelling on foot from Belleville to Toronto, after the manner of our pioneer`s mode of travel. A daunting task taken in stride by Allan, as he carried invitations to the Mayors of the cities and towns, as well as Reeves of villages and all the council members of the municipalities through which he was to pass en route to the provincial capital. The invitations from Belleville **Mayor W.C. Mikel** would spread the news of the event, with the final stop in Toronto with invitations to its Mayor and Council, and the Premier of the Province and his Cabinet. Chief Justice **Sir William Mulock** was also delivered an invitation.

His historic trek began on Monday April 21, 1924. Wherever Cadet Dempsey went, the young courier was warmly welcomed, receiving splendid treatment. Local newspapers carried his story and publicized the upcoming celebrations. An account written by a Whitby reporter read

Having all the appearance of a clean living Canadian youth, clear of eye, and the picture of health, Cadet Dempsey appealed to one, as a worthy descendant of that noble band of hardy pioneers who settled in Canada following the American War of Independence. And he comes of real UEL stock, and it is fitting that he should be chosen to carry the credentials he does in the old time manner of courier.

(Image at right of Cadet Dempsey is from plaque on the restored UEL Monument in Belleville)



It was Saturday evening April 26th when he arrived in Toronto. On Sunday he was received by the Premier of Ontario, and on Monday by **Mayor W.W. Hiltz** of Toronto. The Mayor, being of Loyalist stock, expressed his pleasure at the invitation and hoped to attend with a number of the council members. Allan`s obligations as UEL courier was completed and he returned to Belleville by train. He was met by Mayor Mikel of Belleville and Mayor Blakely of Trenton, along with several aldermen and other city officials. Cadet Dempsey was praised by Mayor Hiltz of Toronto in a letter to Mayor Mikel which read in part as follows:

If Cadet Dempsey is a sample of the boys you have in Belleville and Belleville High School, your city has reason to be proud of your young men.

This was the foundation of a young man`s future. Pride in his accomplishments and the results of a successful celebration would endure for his life. After he graduated in Belleville, he attended the University of Toronto, graduating in 1930, the attending University of Guelph where he

specialized in Horticulture. Here he became actively involved in wrestling and track and field, all of which his excellence set him apart as an outstanding athlete. At the outbreak of World War 2, he signed up as a Physical Training Instructor with the RAFVR, serving in England for five years, and two years in India, from 1939 to 1946.

Following that, he had a career of 23 years as Greenhouse Technician with the Canada Department of Agriculture in Belleville. This is where I first met Allan. For me, this placement as a high school student was an adventure. My boss and I would accompany Allan on field trips to collect larvae specimens for study in the lab. Years later when I was a new member of the Bay of Quinte Branch UEL, our paths crossed again.

The most memorable of Branch meetings for me was when the Chief Herald of Canada was our guest speaker. It was held in the upstairs meeting room over the new fire station in Picton, and Allan received his O'Dempsey Coat of Arms from the Chief Herald, who personally contributed to the creation of this special piece. The symbols related to Allan's life involvement. An example is the shamrock, which signifies the Emerald Isles, the O'Dempsey ancestral home. Look carefully, and you will see asparagus bundles, apples, a cow and hen, and various crests and emblems which combine all of his interests through his life.

Allan was an active member of Branch 88 Canadian Legion for over 35 years, a life member of the United Empire Loyalist Association, serving in the positions of genealogist and research historian, a life member in all four areas of York Rite of Masonry, holding 35 degrees as Life Member of the Scottish Rite Masonry, an armiger authority and numismatist. In the area of horticulture, Allan was an authority and grower of commercial asparagus and apples, and active exhibitor at major Ontario Fairs, and a breeder of both Holstein and Fresian cattle as well as Chantecler poultry.

It has been my pleasure to induct William Allan Dempsey UE, BSA into our Loyalist Hall of Honour, a man who willingly gave of himself in many ways for the betterment of community and country and as a loyalist descendant encouraged others to investigate their heritage.

(Editor's note: Allan was inducted into the Hall of Honour on September 10th, 2011. We were pleased to have some family members present with us that day. Thanks to June Dafoe for this information)



NEW CERTIFICATES PRESENTED:

Congratulations go out to the following for receiving these UEL certificates recently
BEVERLY MERLE PULVER, Belleville, descendant of **CYRENIUS PARKE**, UE
DEBORAH SPENCE, Manitoba, descendant of **SHELDON HAWLEY UE**, **JEPHTHA HAWLEY UE**, **JEHIEL HAWLEY UE**, **JOHN SILLS UE**, **JOHN CONRAD SILLS UE**, **WILLIAM BELL SR. UE**

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF LEEDS COUNTY AREA & THE ARRIVAL OF THE IRISH “LOYALISTS”

(Article based on the presentation by William Morris at our November branch meeting)

The Leeds County area has been inhabited by First Nations people of the Mohawk and in particular Iroquois tribes, for approximately fifteen thousand years. French explorers and fur traders along with English fur traders were the first Europeans into this area. The first written record of European settlers of the area begins in the early 1780s with the arrival of a British Lieutenant Colonel who approached the Iroquois Grand Chief with an offer to buy land. Bags of gold were exchanged for agreed upon tracts of land mostly along the St. Lawrence River and northwards. The first nation's people used the gold to purchase the metal technologies, specifically, guns, axes, saws, and knives. These items radically improved their hunting, food preparation and home building capabilities. The British Lieutenant Colonel brought with him one of the King's surveyors and the land was quickly divided into lots just in time for the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists.

The largest group to enter what was to become Leeds County was a regiment known as Jessup's Loyal Americans under the command of **Col. Edward Jessup**. Before the rebellion, Edward had been a justice of the peace in New York and with his brother Ebenezer owned 500,000 acres under a Crown grant in the Adirondack Mountain. He was a major and fought in the General Burgoyne campaign of 1777. In Canada, he founded the town of Prescott in 1810 and died in February 1816. A second group of Loyalists, members of the Kings Royal Regiment of New York under **Sir John Johnston**, settled an area which became known as Johnstown, located at the present junction of Hwy #2 and Hwy #16, approximately four miles from Prescott. Initially Johnstown was made the administrative centre of the eastern district in 1793 and had a gaol and courthouse. Initially the town of Brockville was settled in 1784 by United Empire Loyalists. **William Buell** was the credited with making the initial landing. As the settlement grew (all bateaux going up and down the river stopped there) there was a rivalry over the name of the town. The names of Williamstown, Charlestown and Elizabethtown were among the contender, but due to the quarrelsome nature of the inhabitants it became popularly known as “Snarling town”! With no ability of the inhabitants to come to agreement about the name of the town, no less an authority than Sir Isaac Brock was finally called in to settle the issue. Probably, due to Brock's kind attention in attending the village to settle such a trivial matter, someone in the town likely suggested the dispute be settled by naming the town in honour of Sir Isaac Brock, since no one would contest such an honour.

After the settlement of all UELs there was a need for more settlers. People “claiming” to have been loyal to the crown but of questionable loyalty came up from the United States. Some of these “late loyalist” settlers were simply after more land and it was feared that they served the interests of the US government in that they could quickly side with the Americans if war broke out. War did indeed break out again in 1812. In the area between Kingston in the west, to Prescott in the east there were questions of divided loyalties on the part of some settlers. After the war of 1812, a concerted effort was made by the British Government to bring in immigrants whose loyalty to the Crown was unquestioned, and were capable of working hard to settle the land and who had military experience so they could be called upon to re-enlist should further hostilities with the Americans occur. Lord Bathurst set up regulations following the War of 1812 and the Napoleonic Wars to bring these loyal settlers to Canada, and supervised the distribution of lands for them.

For these reasons, veterans of the King's army in Ireland especially from Wexford County where some of the fiercest fighting in the Irish Rebellion had occurred were given top priority. Similar to the United Empire Loyalists, these Irish Loyalists supported the Crown, and suffered loss of life and property, and the British Government found land for them in Canada. The highest priority for land grants went to

loyalist immigrants and to “military émigrés and their families” who were discharged soldiers from the King’s army in Ireland. The rebellion of 1798 in Ireland had recently been settled and a large number of troops from there were available as military émigrés to settle in Canada. My Morris ancestors were among the military émigrés. I am often struck by the similarities between my ancestor’s experience and the experiences of **Captain Joseph Allen UEL** of Adolphustown.

- i) In 1798 my great-great-grandfather **Thomas Morris** made a claim to the Crown for losses at the hands of the rebels in Ireland (losing house and furniture) just as Capt. Joseph Allen did in America.
- ii) Thomas Morris served the King for 20 in the Yeomanry (a cavalry unit) as did Captain Joseph.
- iii) Both Captain Joseph Allen and Thomas Morris were given Crown land grants in Canada in return for military service and their losses.

The difference being my ancestor fought for King George III in Ireland (1798-1817) and Capt. Joseph Allen fought for the King in America (1778-1783) Captain Joseph reached his Crown land grant in May 1784 while my ancestor reached his Crown land grant in 1817. Irish natives who had served the King or who were simply Protestants were fiercely loyal to the King since their very survival depended on it. The rebellion in Ireland was fought along strict religious lines with the rebels being mostly native Irish Roman Catholics and the “enemy” being anyone who was not Roman Catholic. This meant that British troops and recent immigrants from other parts of the UK were targeted but also native Irish who joined the King’s forces or even worked for well-off landowners who supported the King. Even native Irish who were simply Protestant became targets. Hostilities on the part of the rebel forces such as the burning of homes & farms mirrored the actions and ensuing results of the American rebels. As in America otherwise neutral people were forced into choosing sides and fought for the King to ensure their survival and safety. The rebellion of 1798 far exceeded the hostilities of the American Revolution as women and children as well as non-combatant males were piked or burned alive in buildings by the rebels.

An accurate chronicle of the hostilities is found in Sir Richard Musgrave’s book *Memoirs of The Irish Rebellion of 1798* written in 1801 and composed of many interviews with civilian, military, police and magistrates who dealt with the rebellion and the claims following the events. As mentioned, the some of the most savage fighting took place in Wexford in or near the town of Enniscorthy and the village of Ferns. The Massacre on the bridge in Wexford is described in his book on pg. 454-455 as follows:

When the rebels briefly captured the town of Wexford, Protestants initially jailed were then brought out in groups of twenty, speared with pike polls, and dumped off the bridge into the River Slaney. The rebels had with them a black flag with white letters on it bearing the letters “M. W. S.” which was the abbreviation for “Murder Without Sin”. Apparently someone in the community who was “an authority on sin” had decided this flag would encourage them to kill more easily. After each round of killings, a Catholic Priest was observed to kneel in prayer with the rebels. This brings up the horrific issue that at least local priests were complicit if not instigators in the hostilities.

Brian Tackaberry and I discovered that our families shared the same legend which has been passed down from generation to generation and has its origin in the rebellion of 1798. In the family legend which had been passed down in both my family and Brian’s, the Protestant women and some of their children were rounded up into a barn which was then set on fire. In the legend in Brian’s family, his female ancestor and her young son escaped from the barn and observed it burning from a safe distance. In the legend passed down in my family a terrified young lady hid in the bushes close to the barn witnessed some of the remarks made by the rebels on horseback surrounding the burning barn and armed with pike polls. When the barn was engulfed in flames some women courageously threw their small children out in an attempt to save them. The rebels on horseback speared them with pike polls and threw them back in the flames. The terrified young woman, my great-great-grandmother, remained hidden in the bushes until dark when she made her way to a safe haven. For Protestants in southern Ireland their safety and survival depended on

loyalty to the Crown. Clearly the rebellion of 1798 set the stage for the religious discrimination which continues, tragically, to this day in Ireland.

Many of first and second wave immigrants into the Leeds area after the War of 1812 were from Wexford and Carlow Counties, and left from the port of Wexford or the port of Cork in the north. They often had their lands pre-assigned by lot and concession to them prior to arrival, unlike the UELs who had to draw their lots on arrival. Many received their lands in the various townships throughout Leeds, and in areas even to the north of it into Lanark County. Peter Robinson also supervised a third wave of Irish settlers headed for the town of Peterborough as well as the Ottawa valley. He was a member of the Upper Canada legislature and was responsible for bringing thousands of Irish immigrants to Canada. Immigrants were from both religions but amazingly no religious conflict or hostilities began between them in Canada after emigration. Today Canada is known throughout the world as a champion of religious freedom and minority rights.

The residents of the Leeds and Ottawa valley area continued to be largely of Irish origin up to the end of WW11 when mass immigration changed the Canadian population demographic makeup. A distinct "Ottawa valley accent" also developed over generations which was Irish in origin. A British gentleman in my condominium who came to Ottawa in 1950, remarked to me that he wondered why there were so many "Irish" people in Ottawa until he learned this was the Ottawa valley accent.

EDITOR'S NOTES: Thanks to Bill Morris for supplying this article. Bill's ancestors settled near Athens village in Leeds, and some of the family are still on the original lands the Morris's received. Many of these early Irish settlers arrived through Brockville and into the surrounding Elizabethtown Township before moving on to their lands. Just north of Brockville today is a small hamlet called New Dublin, and its cemetery is filled with Irish names from Wexford. My Irish ancestor, **Anthony Tackaberry**, was born in Ferns Parish, Wexford, Ireland in 1798, his father Richard being killed in the 1798 rebellion. Anthony and his brother Nathaniel served in the Irish Yeomanry and arrived in Brockville in 1818, receiving land grants beside each other in Lanark Township. By 1830 he had sold his land in Lanark and moved to Carrying Place in Murray Township. Incidentally, the English Settlement in Murray Township near the Murray Canal region was similarly settled around 1820 by mostly English Loyal subjects, under Lord Bathurst's orders. For further detailed reading on the Irish Rebellion consult the following book:
-Memoirs of the Irish Rebellion of 1798, by Sir Richard Musgrave, published originally in 1801 and 4th edition republished in 1995 by Round Tower Books

UELHCP RECEIVES TECHNOLOGY GRANT:

The United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre has received a grant through the Museums Technology Fund of \$12280 for a project to digitize Loyalist Related Artefacts and Documents. Through the project, we will be partnered with the Bay of Quinte Branch as well as the Fairfield Gutzeit Society in Bath. The project will allow for the purchase of digitizing equipment, computers, and software, as well as covering the cost for student staff. The aim is to make digital copies of the original documents in our records, including some old family bibles, so the originals will be protected, and digital copies would be available for research purposes. We will also be taking digital photos of items in the museum's collections as part of the records of our holdings, and also to make digital image presentations available to schools or community groups.



Ministry of
Tourism and Culture

The Bay of Quinte Branch UEL and the UEL Heritage Centre and Park would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture for their support of this project.